

PROJECT U

WHAT'S PROJECT U?

project u is an interactive website featuring interviews with current university students about how they made the decision to go to university and what it was like when they got there. Real students telling it like it is.

It's about real experiences – good and bad – about going to uni. Issues such as decision-making, parental pressure, choosing subjects, finding accommodation and lots more are discussed.

WHO'S IT FOR?

The information is aimed particularly at students who are first in their family to go to university, especially those from low-income backgrounds, from regional and rural areas, and from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds. It's also for anyone who ever thought that maybe they would like to go to uni, AND for those who don't think it's for people like you. You might just be surprised.

WHAT'S IN PROJECT U?

The DVD is made up of about 12 issues-based video clips that will be relevant to high school students – like you – who may be struggling to make decisions about your future such as choosing subjects, continuing your education or what to do when you finish school.

How do we know these issues are relevant to high schools students? Well, we asked them!

Here are some of the things high school students like you were concerned about:

- it's too hard to think about the future
- there's too much information
- it's too much stress
- what if...I don't get in, I don't know what course to choose, I don't know anyone
- maybe I will go later
- no one I know has been to uni so I don't know what to expect
- it's something other people do
- uni isn't hands on – it's all theory
- it's too expensive
- I have to move away from home
- it's not worth going to uni when I can get a job

Some of these concerns were valid but many of them are actually misguided! Hopefully by listening to how the project u students solved some of these problems, it might give you a few ideas about what to do when you finish school. And you never know – uni might just be the start of something big!

WHAT STUDENTS SAY...

About choosing a pathway...

'There are always options and there are always doors that will open – you just have to seek them out' Sarah

If you don't get the OP you want, there are other options' Jolene

'There's plenty of time to change – everyone changes' Shae

'It's an extremely flexible place' Patrick

'I always wanted to go to uni – I just took a little while to get here' Jolene

About money...

'I did struggle financially but there are other people in the same boat as you' Sam



'I couldn't afford to go to uni without HECS' Lauren

'I get a scholarship so that will be helpful' Theo

About studying...

'I thought uni was all books and reading' Tamara

'Most subjects have a group element' Patrick

'The lectures are usually quite engaging' Jacqui

About careers...

'I needed to go to university to do what I wanted to do' Jolene

'A degree is probably seen better in the workplace' Oswel

'I needed more skills to be a better rounded professional in the industry' Jason

About choosing the right course...

'There's always going to be pressure no matter what you do' Todd

'I had no idea. Right up until when I put in the QTAC form, I just wanted to be famous' Lauren

Do what you're good at, do what you're happy with' Theo

About starting uni...

'When I first started uni it was quite scary' Tommy

'I doubted myself and my academic ability and it wasn't until I got in there I realised how much support was available' Todd

'If your passionate about something you'd be surprised how well you can do' Sam

USEFUL LINKS

'I went on work experience' Lauren

'I got some brochures and went on the website' Todd

'We had a careers counsellor' Patrick

'I asked for help – of my lecturers, of my tutors, from counsellors, from my guidance officer, of friends and family' Sam

About choosing a pathway...

www.myfuture.edu.au

www.jobguide.deewr.gov.au

www.year12whatnext.gov.au

www.goingtouni.gov.au

www.gooduniguide.com.au

www.qtac.edu.au

Stuff about money...

www.goingtouni.gov.au

www.centrelink.gov.au



Getting a job...

www.deewr.gov.au/Employment

www.graduatecareers.com.au

www.fairwork.gov.au

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